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home in terms of wage, regularity of employment, permanency of location, industrial insurance, accident, sick and death benefits, hours of labor, opportunity for home ownership and development, regulation of real estate manipulation and greed as represented in prices, rentals and living space both within and without the dwelling. The normal family home must rest upon a sound economic basis. Social injustice in this respect contributes to delinquency.

Another economic factor consists of the incompetence of the great mass of children leaving school between the fifth and eighth grades and being wholly unfit for remunerative, intelligent and progressive employment. These very largely repeat the tragedy of poverty which blighted their own lives. Besides, many of them are much of the time out of work or "hunting a job" and fall into street occupations or idle and vicious ways. Without vocational training and direction they become work-shy, non-productive, anti-social, criminal.

Other social causes.—Among these are the undirected gang-life of boys, heightening the adventure instinct and perverting the desire for distinction, criminal suggestion in public press and

uncensored nickel shows, injudicious advertising and display, carelessness in protecting goods and so in protecting the tempted, extravagance and immodesty in dress, saloons, indecent public dance halls, poolrooms, the failure of Christian people to use their own homes as social centers, lack of clean facilities for social recreation, lack of moral training which guarantees inner spiritual control, failure to secure youth's dedication to a high, worthy, and positive purpose in life.

Topics for Discussion

1. How far is the state justified in curtailing traditional parental rights? (See Breckinridge, *Survey*, February 4, 1911.)

2. Why do boys outnumber girls in delinquency?

3. What measures does your community follow in order to detect and correct physical defect in children?

4. In what ways does the saloon contribute to delinquency?

5. What are the state laws and city ordinances regulating poolrooms, public dance halls, street vending, and nickel shows in your community?

6. Upon the basis of material in the Gospels what deductions, if any, may we make as to Jesus' estimate of childhood?

SUGGESTIONS TO LEADERS OF CLASSES USING THE COURSE "THE MESSAGE OF JESUS TO OUR MODERN LIFE"

STUDY VII

THE STATE AND POLITICAL LIFE

The subject for the present month is one which should command the earnest attention of every member of the group. The present crisis in international affairs is

interpreted by many as the failure of Christianity to operate in international relationships. The settlement of the question of war in the future will depend on the young

men and women of today. Not only is the international crisis an important one, but our own nation is facing serious problems which may involve its exercise of certain functions now performed by the individual, and important legislation controlling commerce and many matters which have in times past been considered individual rights. Our young men and women have had little training in citizenship. Perhaps this is not altogether a misfortune if we can at this time introduce such training in citizenship as will bring the principles of Jesus to bear in national and international relationships.

The program for the first meeting of the month may consider the following topics:

Leader: The political world in which Jesus lived.

Members: (1) Evidences of intelligent understanding of the politics of his day gleaned from the sayings of Jesus. (2) Important crises in which opportunities for political leadership came to Jesus, and his action in relation to them. (3) The principles of a democratic government which accord with the general teaching of Jesus concerning the brotherhood of man. (4) The countries in which Christianity seems to have led to increased democracy in government. (5) Some of the activities of our own state or nation which may be considered as expressions of the principles of Jesus.

Discussion: Would Jesus' attitude of aloofness from politics have been different in democratic America today?

The second meeting may give attention to the following themes:

Leader: A brief résumé of the wars of the Bible: (a) for conquest (Joshua); (b) for national existence (Saul); (c) for national expansion (David); (d) for national preservation (later kings); (e) against spiritual forces (Paul); (f) against the war spirit (Jesus).

Members: (1) Methods of applying the principles of Jesus to international relations:

(a) to commerce between nations; (b) to immigration; (c) to education about nations; (d) to the settlement of difficulties; (e) to racial antipathies; (f) to religions in different nations. (2) The bearing of the teaching of Jesus on the question of suffrage in the United States.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Can war be a Christian method of settling difficulties between nations?

2. To what extent can a Christian individual influence the state?

MATTERS FOR INVESTIGATION

1. How far does your state undertake to regulate the morals of its citizens? What are its agencies for so doing?

2. Could the public schools be more influential in bringing the principles of individual and civic morality into effectual action?

3. To what extent do the young people of your community look upon citizenship as a privilege and a duty for which they should make careful preparation?

4. To what extent does your state fulfil its duties in the matter of education, relief of the poor, maintenance of highways, public parks, and other agencies intended for the general uplift of the community?

REFERENCE READING

Chadwick, *Social Relationships in the Light of Christianity*, sec. 3; Hall, *Social Solutions*, chaps. xvi-xxiv, xxviii-xxx; Mathews, *Social Teaching of Jesus*, chap. vi; Clarke, *The Ideal of Jesus*, chaps. ix, x, xi, xv; Rauschenbusch, *Christianizing the Social Order*, Part 6, chaps. i-v; Rauschenbusch, *Christianity and the Social Crisis*, chaps. iii and iv; Stalker, *The Ethics of Jesus*, chap. xvi; King, *The Moral and Religious Challenge of Our Times*, chaps. viii, ix, x; Steiner, *The Trail of the Immigrant*; Jane Addams, *Twenty Years at Hull House*.

Appropriate articles will be found under the various heads in Hastings' *Dictionary of the Bible* and Hastings' *Dictionary of Christ and the Gospels*.